

indeed without it, there could be nothing of any of these things truly, in our hearts or lives. As to our own particular or special interest, there can be no true satisfaction about it, but *in* trusting, loving, and obeying upon the footing of the free gospel. Thus there is a security against any abuse, if it be rightly understood : for a person cannot gratify himself in any thing contrary to the rules of the word, without saying in his heart, that something besides a free Christ is his hope and portion. Whereas on the other hand, while we proceed upon gospel principles in our affections and practice ; we shall not be destitute of the witness and seal of the spirit to our adoption.

The intention of all that has been said, is only to show that the proper, immediate, unconditional freedom of divine grace, is that which stands *foremost* in the gospel declaration ; and that 'tis this which constitutes it properly *Gospel*, to poor, perishing, helpless, condemned sinners of mankind.

There is nothing previous to this freedom of grace, nothing seen, felt, heard or understood ; that can afford any degree of true relief to the distressed soul, or guilty conscience. While this mere grace is so rich full and free, that it is sufficient in the hands of the divine spirit to give immediate and proper relief. Wheresoever this is properly understood and really credited, in its evidence and importance, 'tis such good news that it conveys peace and rest to the mind before God, and so it is verified ; *We which have believed do enter into rest.* Heb. iv. 3. / And this comfortable satisfaction is such as becomes the spring of all gospel love, patience, repentance and obedience, in a continued belief and view of this free love proclaimed in the blessed gospel.

Neither are those true and important doctrines
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of *distinguishing* grace, any way opposite to, denied by, or inconsistent with this free gospel hope. For it is this free grace gospel believed, or which is the same, it is the grace of God in Christ known and believed which pacifies the conscience, comforts the heart, strengthens the soul, purifies the affections, and attracts to love and obedience.

Those who are thus pacified, comforted, &c. are true believers, who live by the faith of the son of God, in a continued dependence upon and regard to Christ as their light, life, joy, strength, and portion. These shall certainly persevere, for God has by his spirit, thro' the word, put his fear and shed abroad his love in their hearts, that they might not depart from him.

Blessed are they that know the joyful sound; they shall walk in the light of God's countenance: for the more they know of it, and enjoy the holy satisfaction flowing from it; the more they appear to be under the real influence of the blessed spirit of truth and grace; and the more evident both to themselves and others, is their election, their particular redemption, their real regeneration and effectual calling. For God hath chosen his people to salvation thro' sanctification of the spirit, and belief of the truth, whereunto they are called, by the gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, *2 Theff. ii. 13, 14.*

And O may the Lord the spirit make every one of us know more and more the excellency and glory of this free grace, and remove those clouds that frequently interpose between the sun of righteousness and our souls; that we may be filled with all joy and peace in believing, and so may abound in hope and in true holiness, through the power of the holy Ghost. *Amen.*

F I N I S.



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CONTINUATION

OF

Dr. C O K E's

JOURNAL:

IN

TWO LETTERS

TO THE

Rev. J. W E S L E Y.



L O N D O N:

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Wesley's Preaching-Houses in Town and Country. 1787.



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Dominica, Jan. 15, 1787.

Rev. Sir,

ON Friday the 5th inst. I sailed with Brother *Baxter*, *Hammet* and *Clarke*, from *Antigua*. On Sunday the 7th, we landed at this island. The night before, we stopt on the coast, and Brother *Baxter* and I landed, being informed by our Captain of one Mr. *Burn*, a Planter, a generous young man, who lives within half a mile of the sea, and who probably would be very glad to encourage a Mission in the island. After walking a quarter of a mile we came to a little river, which we waded through, and on calling up Mr. *Burn* who was gone to bed, he received us, and entertained us courteously, and gave us every encouragement we could expect from an unawakened man; assured us he should be glad to entertain the Minister whenever he should visit his estate: that there were about four hundred Negroes in the neighbourhood, and that he had no doubt but the few neighbouring Planters would give us the same encouragement. Here we met with two old Negroes, who I apprehend, had been formerly among the Moravians at *Antigua*, who exceedingly rejoiced at the thought that they were likely to have the gospel preached to them again.

When we came to *Rouffseau (Dominica)* on Sunday, we went to the house of a Mrs. *Webley*, a Mulatto Gentlewoman of some property, with

whom Brother *Baxter* had some acquaintance at *Antigua*. She received us with great joy and kindness, and gave notice I should preach in her house at four in the afternoon. The congregation was considerably larger than the house could contain, and heard in general with deep attention, whilst I endeavoured to display to them the elect, precious Corner-Stone, and the way of being built upon him. I would have taken the street, if the Brethren had not thought it best for me not to be too bold, till I had waited on the Governor, which I intended doing on my return. We also visited the harracks, and there found out two soldiers who had been in our Society in *Ireland*, and expressed very earnest desires that a Mission might be fixed in this island. In the evening we got into our schooner, and after sailing by *Martinico* and *St. Lucia*, we landed at *Kingston*, *St. Vincent's*, on Tuesday the 9th.

Here we have the most glorious opening that, I believe, was ever known among the Methodists in so short a time. Brother *Baxter* introduced us to one Mr. *Claxton*, a man of property. He was awakened by the ministry of Mr. *Gilbert*, and met in Class at *Antigua* for sometime, but had never heard Brother *Baxter*. He has much of the spirit of a Methodist: his wife also fears God. The evening after we landed, I preached in his house to a large congregation. On Wednesday the 10th, we set off for the plantation of Mr. *Clapham*, a Gentleman of fortune, nearly related by law to Sister *Baxter*. He was previously informed of our intentions to wait upon him, and sent horses for us. He lives about nine or ten miles from *Kingston*.
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We were received, I think I may say, with the utmost kindness. In the evening I preached in the large parlour: and on informing Mr. *Clapham* that Brother *Clarke* was to remain in the island, he gave him a pressing, general invitation: observed, it was possible he might have accidentally some company who would look upon a sermon as an intrusion, but in that case Mr. *Clarke* at the proper time might convene the Negroes into a large boarded room which was separate from the house: and that he would speak to Mr. *Jackson*, a neighbouring Gentleman, who, he did not doubt, would readily enter on the same plan. In my way to Mr. *Clapham's*, I called at the house of one Mr. *Morgan*, a Gentleman of large property, whose Lady (he not being at home) informed us that Mr. *Clarke* would be always welcome to instruct and preach to their Negroes at proper hours.

On my return to *Kingston*, I found that our friend *Claxton* had fitted up with seats a large warehouse or cellar for a Preaching-house; and also two small rooms for the Preacher, one for his bed-chamber, and the other, for his study. We also waited on the President of the Council, who acts as Governor, the late Governor being dead, and the vacancy not yet filled up. He also received us with great courtesy, wished us success, and gave permission to Brother *Clarke* to preach in the Court-house on Sundays. A Gentleman of fortune in *Kingston*, Mr. *Stewart*, who keeps a very large shop or warehouse, and with whom we dined, is rejoiced above measure at our visit. He made me a present of a large cocoa-nut very

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curiously engraved and set in silver. To Brother *Hammet* he gave a seal, worth, I suppose, three or four guineas; and to Brother *Baxter* a pocket dressing-table for shaving, &c. worth, I suppose, a couple of guineas. To Brother *Clarke*, he said, he would make no present then; for, says he, I shall have him near me when you are gone, and he shall never want. He was many years ago in our Society in *London*, and through various vicissitudes is become a very rich man, though once poor. He and Mr. *Claxton* are beginning already to talk about ground for a Preaching-house. I formed a Class of six whites to begin. Besides these, there are six or seven of the soldiers in the barracks who are deeply serious: one of them exhorts. They have built a hut for their public and private meetings within their barracks, and constantly meet together at five in the morning, except when military duties interfere, and then they meet at half past four in the morning. Their ill-natured Commander in Chief will not suffer Brother *Clarke* to preach within the barracks, but the poor soldiers were to meet him in Class at Mr. *Claxton's*, on the day after I left *St. Vincent's*.

On Friday the 10th, we dined, by invitation, at Mr. *Olley's*, a Member of the Council, and one of the principal men, perhaps the second, in the island: he lives about seven miles from *Kingston*. He is a very agreeable man, and his Lady has something serious in her. Notwithstanding there were two thoughtless Officers at dinner with us, he gave Brother *Clarke* a general invitation to make his house his home. Sir *William Young*, on whom I waited at *Antigua*,
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and who received me with very great courtesy, has a large estate just by Mr. *Otley's*. In short, there is a little Circuit opened to us already in this island: nor shall I be surprised if Brother *Clarke* has, in a few weeks, five hundred Catechumens under his care. In *Kingston* it is surprising, with what eyes of affection the poor Negroes look upon us, when we pass by them: and one of them was overheard, telling his companions, "These men were imported for us." There is a Member of the Assembly, to whom I had strong letters of recommendation, on whom I had not time to call. There is also another Gentleman who is personally known to Brother *Baxter*, and who has half a dozen of our pious *Antigua* Negroes on his plantation, on whom also we had not time to wait. It is impossible to have any doubt concerning the will of God, in respect to the appointment of a Missionary for this island: in respect to *Antigua* and *St. Vincent's*, all is as clear as if it was written with a sun-beam.

The island of *St. Vincent's* is romantic beyond any thing I ever saw before. The hanging rocks, sugar-canes, cotton and coffee plantations, &c. make such a beautifully variegated scene, that I was delighted with it; but, I trust, did not lose sight of the great Author of the whole.

Monday, Jan 15, we landed again at *Roussseau (Dominica)*. We intended being here yesterday, but were prevented by a calm. After breakfast we waited on the Governor, who received us very politely, and signified his approbation of our plan of establishing Missions among the Negroes. Afterwards we came to the plantation of Mr. *Cherrurier* brother to Mr. *Cherrurier*,

Cherrurier, one of the Leaders of our Society in *Dublin*. He expresses his great desire of having a Missionary fixed in the island, assuring us that he will readily contribute to his support, and encourage his usefulness. I think the Lord will soon have mercy on this island.

This evening we examined minutely that wonderful little insect, the Fire-Fly. It appears as if he had a real spark of fire continually burning in his belly. We could see what a clock it was in a dark room with the help of one of them.

Tuesday the 16th, we set off for *St. Christopher's*, where we arrived on Thursday. On our arrival, we found that intelligence had been sent here from *Antigua*, of our intention of visiting this island: and a house was provided for us to lodge and preach in. *Mr. Cable*, a Mulatto Gentleman, a Printer, has shewn us the utmost kindness and attention. A *Mrs. Seaton* also, a Mulatto Gentlewoman, has been very kind. The two last mentioned, deeply fear God. One *Mr. Bertie*, a Jeweller, is likely to become a sincere friend. On Thursday evening I had a good congregation, considering the notice given.

On Friday the 19th, we went with some commendatory letters to the island of *Nevis*, which is very near *St. Christopher's*: but it proved to all appearance the most useless as well as the most expensive journey that we have taken. We were received politely, but every door seemed shut against our ministry.

On our return to *St. Christopher's* we received an invitation to preach in the Court-house. Brother *Hammet* preached on Sunday afternoon, and

and I in the evening. The crowd was prodigious in the evening. Six or seven principal Gentlemen of the town have invited us to their houses, to some of which we have gone. Among the rest, was the Parson of the parish. Our friends have rented a convenient house for Brother *Hammet*. We have other openings of which I shall inform you in my next.

Your most affectionate, &c.

St. Eustatius, Jan. 31, 1787.

Rev. Sir,

SINCE my last, a Gentleman in the island of *Nevis*, (Mr. *Brazier*, a Member of the Assembly) has sent an invitation to Brother *Hammet* to come over to preach to the Negroes. The son of the President of the Council of *Nevis* (Mr. *Herbert*) has also given Brother *Hammet* an invitation to preach in his house at *Charleston*, the principal town in the island of *Nevis*. So that our journey to that island has not been so fruitless as we imagined. We have lately seen a curious fish exactly like a land hedge-hog, but when dressed, it eats as well as a turtle.

On Wednesday the 25th, we sailed from *Basse-Terre*, *St. Kitt's*, and stopped at *Sandy-Point*, a town in the same island, where we called on one Mr. *Sommersal*, a Gentleman of property, at whose house Mr. *Tunnel*, one of our American Elders who took a voyage to *St. Kitts*, for his health, once preached. He promised us that he would consult with some of his friends in the neighbourhood, and with them endeavour to procure a proper place for Mr. *Hammet* to preach in.

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In the afternoon we landed in *St. Eustatius*, and were met by two black men, who asked us whether we were not some of the Brethren (I thought they meant of the Moravians, but afterwards found they meant the Methodists.) I told them we were of the same kind: then, said they, if you will come with us, we will shew you your home. I told them that we wanted to see Captain *de Lion*; the Captain of the Blacks, to whom we had recommendatory letters. You had better, said they, go home first. And accordingly they brought us to a very comfortable house belonging to a family of free Blacks, where we have been most hospitably entertained. Some serious free Blacks had received intelligence, I find, from *St. Kitt's* of our intencion to visit them, and had joined together to bear the expence of supporting us. In the evening a pretty congregation, without any regular notice was gathered together: but being now in the dominions of a foreign Power (*Eustatius* belonging to the *Dutch*) I thought it prudent to inform the people that I should not preach that evening, as I had not waited on the Governor: and yet, notwithstanding, we were obliged to pray three times, and sing twice, before they would go away. The Lord raised up lately a Negro slave whose name is *Harry* (who was brought here from the Continent, and who was formerly a member of our Society) to prepare our way. *Harry* did so grieve in spirit at the wickedness of the people around him, that at last the fire broke forth, and he bore a public testimony for Jesus. The Governor came to hear him, and approved of what he said: but in a little time the poor slaves were

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so affected under the word, that many of them fell down as if they were dead, and some of them would remain in a state of stupor for some hours. One night sixteen of them fell down in this manner. Then the Governor sent for *Harry*, and forbid him to preach any more under severe penalties. He would have ordered him to be whipped, if the *Fischal* or supreme Judge, who was present at the same time, had not observed that he had done nothing worthy of corporal punishment. *Harry* has awakened about twenty souls, who are willing immediately to be put into Class. There is also a black woman here who came from *America*, who loves God. The day after *Harry's* mouth was stopped, we landed, to the joy of his poor little flock; and on the day we landed, the Governor was taken ill.

Thursday the 25th, we waited on the Captain of the island, who now represents the Governor, and on the *Fischal* or Judge. The *Fischal* told us that we must be private, till the Court had considered whether our Religion should be tolerated or not. The Captain also ordered us to prepare our Confession of Faith and Credentials, and to present them to the Court on Saturday: with all which we complied. We have been since informed that they were highly satisfied with our Confession: but they ordered us to wait till the next Court for an answer, which will be held on Wednesday in the next week. They could all speak English, and yet they would converse with us only through an interpreter: this is, I suppose, the custom. Indeed, there is much more English than Dutch spoken in this island.

Sunday